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EXAMINER

MOONEYHAM, JANICE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/776,788

Applicant(s)

CHUNG, KEVIN KWONG-TAI

Examiner

Janice A. Mooneyham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 70-137 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-137 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on May 5, 2005, wherein:

Claims 70-137 are currently pending;

Claims 1-69 have been cancelled;

Claims 70-137 are new.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on May 5, 2005 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 115 recites the limitation "the computer". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

4. Claim 112 recites the limitation "said property management system".

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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5. Claims 70-137 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Klein et al (US 5,726,885) (hereinafter referred to as Klein).

Referring to Claim 70:

Klein discloses a registration apparatus (col. 2, lines 49-54; makes reservations for individual vehicles), comprising:

a processor providing information and a memory operably coupled thereto (Figures 1 and 2 Disposition Center Z with Disposition Computer D);

a user interface coupled to the processor including a display and a data entry (Figure 1-3 N user, col. 3, lines 11-20 dialogue interface; col. 4, lines 13-31 user can communicate with disposition center (Z) via a telephone line including a modem; col. 7, lines 16-22 display screen);

access cards with each card including a card memory not having information stored thereon (chip card; col. 3, lines 21-29; col. 4, lines 46-52) ;

a card issuing device comprising a card writer being operably coupled to the processor (col. 2, lines 21-29; col. 4, lines 46-52 card issuing unit; col. 7, lines 29-45); and

a card dispenser (col. 4, lines 46-52 card issuing unit)

Referring to Claim 71:

Klein discloses an apparatus further comprises:

a management system (hire vehicle transport system) with a access card having information stored in the card memory (col. 4, lines 50-55),

said system further comprising a time recording system linked thereto, the time recording system including one or more time clock stations comprising a

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card reader, a memory, a card writer, and a processor (col. 3, lines 35-45; col. 5, lines 38-48; col. 6, lines 35-45; col. 7, lines 29-45 reports the time ; col. 8, lines 12-16).

Referring to Claim 72:

Klein discloses a management system and time recording system linked directly or indirectly via a communication link or a management system and the time recording system linked via a data transfer card; or a processor and the memory of the reservation apparatus including the processor and memory of the time clock station; or any combination thereof of the foregoing (col. 3, lines 35-45; col. 5, lines 38-48; col. 6, lines 35-45; col. 7, lines 29-45 reports the time ; col. 8, lines 12-16).

Referring to Claims 73-75:

The fact that the information relates to rooms, areas, facilities, services or any combination thereof, at the premises, and to the status thereof, the availability thereof, or both; user information includes selection of a room, area, facility, service, or any combination thereof, at the premises; user information includes personal information, credit information, identifying information, loyalty program information, or any combination thereof is determined to be non-functional descriptive data not functionally interrelated with the structure of the claimed invention and thus will not serve as a limitation. See (*In re Gulack*, 217 USPQ 401 (CAFC 1983), *Ex parte Carver*, 227 USPQ 465 and *In re Lowry*, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (CAFC 1994).

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Referring to Claim 76:

Klein discloses wherein the access card is a magnetic stripe card having a magnetic stripe card memory, a smart card having a processor and an electronic memory, or both (col. 3, lines 35-40 chip card which is coded).

Referring to Claim 77:

Klein discloses the registration apparatus in combination with at least one access device responsive to the access card (col. 1, lines 1-23; col. 4, lines 50-55; col. 5, lines 3-12).

Referring to Claim 78:

Klein discloses wherein the access device includes a memory (col. 3, lines 21-29; col. 4, lines 50-55 card reader; col. 5, lines 3-12)

Referring to Claim 79:

Klein discloses the registration apparatus in combination with a management system providing information (Figures 1-3; col. 4, lines 13-60).

Referring to Claim 80:

The access information related to the registration information (col. 2, lines 49-54) and the user information includes an identifier of a room, area, facility, service, or combination thereof (col. 3, lines 21-29 (card coded for specific vehicle); col. 4, lines 46-60; col. 5, lines 3-12 barrier; col. 5, lines 29-37 turnstill).

Referring to Claim 81:

Klein discloses the information is information communicated to the processor from a external source via a communication link (Figure 1; col. 4, lines 13-45; col. 7, lines 28).

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Referring to Claim 82:

Klein discloses wherein the communication link includes a network, telephone, Internet, or a combination thereof (Figures 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 13-45).

Referring to Claim 83:

Klein discloses a registration system, comprising:

a processor providing information and a memory operably coupled thereto (Figures 1 and 2 Disposition Center A with Disposition Computer D);

a user interface including a display coupled to the processor (Figures 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 11-20 dialogue interface; col. 4, lines 13-31; col. 7, lines 16-22 display screen);

means coupled to the processor and responsive to a card for effecting verification, authorization, billing, payment, or a combination thereof (col. 5, lines 13-28 and 38-57; col. 7, lines 29-45; col. 8, lines 29-56);

access cards with each card including a card memory not having information pre-stored thereon (col. 6, lines 24-34; col. 7, lines 29-45 chip card);

a card issuing device comprising a card writer being operably coupled to the processor (col. 4, lines 46-49 card issuing unit);

a card dispenser (col. 4, lines 46-49 card issuing unit);

a plurality of access devices each including a reader (col. 4, lines 50-55; col. 5, lines 3-12).

Referring to Claims 84-85:

The fact that the registration information relates to rooms, areas, facilities, services or any combination thereof, at the premises, and to the status thereof,

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the availability thereof, or both; user information includes selection of a room, area, facility, service, or any combination thereof, at the premises is non-functional descriptive data. Applicant is referred to discussion as to claims 73-75.

Referring to Claims 86:

Klein discloses wherein an access card includes a magnetic stripe card having a magnetic stripe card memory, a smart card having a processor and an electronic memory, or both (col. 3, lines 21-29 chip card which is coded).

Referring to Claim 87:

Klein discloses wherein the access cards includes a contact-type smart card, a wireless type smart card, or a combination thereof (col. 4, lines 50-55 contactless vehicle specific coded chip card).

Referring to Claim 88:

Klein discloses a registration system in combination with a property management system for providing information (Figures 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 13-60; col. 5, lines 3-12 barrier).

Referring to Claim 89:

Klein discloses a property management system is run on a processor (Figures 1 and 2 disposition center Z with disposition computer D).

Referring to Claim 90:

Klein discloses an access device operably coupled to one of the processor and the property management system for communicating information (Figures 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 13-60).

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Referring to Claims 91:

The fact that the user information includes personal information, identifying information, loyalty program information, selection of at least one of rooms, areas, facilities, services at the premises, or combination thereof is non-functional descriptive data. See discussion as to claim 73-75.

Referring to Claim 92:

Klein discloses wherein the means for effecting is responsive to a smartcard, a magnetic stripe card or both (col. 4, lines 50-55).

Referring to Claim 93:

Klein discloses wherein information is communicated to the processor from an external source (Figures 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 13-45).

Referring to Claim 94:

Klein disclose wherein the communication link includes a network, telephone, the Internet, or a combination thereof (Figures 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 13-45).

Referring to Claim 95:

Klein discloses wherein at least one access device includes an electronic lock providing selective access to a given location in response to information stored in the access card memory; said lock including a clock (col. 3, lines 35-40; col. 5, lines 38-47; col. 6, lines 35-41).

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Referring to Claim 96:

Klein discloses a system comprising a time-clock station responsive to information stored on a card memory (col. 3, lines 35-45; col. 5, lines 38-47; col. 6, lines 35-41).

Referring to Claim 97:

The fact that the access card is also a loyalty card is non-functional descriptive data. The access card would perform the same, not matter if it were a loyalty card or not. See discussion as to claims 73-75.

Referring to Claim 98:

Klein discloses access card includes at least one of an accessible memory into which information can be stored and a secure memory storing unchangeable information (col. 54-57; col. 6, lines 24-40).

Referring to Claim 99:

Klein discloses the plurality of access devices including at least an electronic lock (col. 3, lines 35-40; col. 6, lines 35-45). The fact that the premises includes a hotel, motel, resort, lodging facility, hospitality facility, or a combination thereof is determined to non-functional descriptive data. See discussion as to claims 73-75.

Referring to Claim 100:

Klein discloses a property management system providing information (Figures 1 and 2; col. 13-60; col. 5, lines 58-67).

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Referring to Claim 101:

Klein discloses the user interface further includes a means for providing a tangible receipt (col. 5, lines 23-28; 38-48).

Referring to Claim 102:

Klein discloses a property management system providing information wherein insertion of the card into the user interface causes the property management system to provide information and causes the means for providing a tangible receipt to provide the receipt (col. 5, lines 13-28 and col. 5, lines 38-48).

Referring to Claim 103:

Klein discloses a system, comprising:

at least one processor providing information and at least one memory operably coupled thereto (Figures 1 and 2 Disposition Center A with Disposition Computer D);

a property management system including a program stored in the memory and operating in conjunction with the processor for processing registrations (Figures 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 50-55);

a user interface coupled to the processor and property management system; the property management system providing information (Figures 1-3; col. 3, lines 11-20; col. 4, lines 13-31; col. 7, lines 16-22);

access cards with each card including a card memory not having information stored thereon (col. 3, lines 21-29; col. 4, lines 46-52);

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a plurality of electronic access devices associated with one of the spaces and responsive to parameters stored in the card memory of the access card (col. 5, lines 3-12 and 34-37; col. 7, lines 32-57);

an access control system including a computer program stored in the at least one memory and operating in conjunction with the at least one processor (col. 4, lines 13-55; col. 5, lines 58- 57; col. 7, lines 47-57);

a card issuing device operably coupled to the at least one processor for storing information from the property management system and parameters from the access control system in the card memory of an access card; said card issuing device including a dispenser providing the access card in response to a user registration; the card issuing device issuing an access card from the plurality of access cards having information and parameters (col. 4, lines 13-60);

a personnel management system including a computer program stored in at least one memory and operating in conjunction with the processor (Figures 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 13-60).

Referring to 104:

Klein discloses at least one time clock station responsive to the access card (col. 3, lines 35-45; col. 5, lines 48; col. 6, lines 35-41; col. 7, lines 42-46).

Referring to Claim 105:

Klein discloses the time clock station records date and time information relating to information stored in the access card and information stored in a memory in the time clock station, or both (col. 3, lines 35-45; col. 5, lines 48; col. 6, lines 35-41 and col. 6, lines 5-11; col. 7, lines 42-46).

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Referring to Claim 106:

Klein discloses the access card having access parameters stored in the memory (col. 3, lines 21-30).

Referring to Claim 107:

The fact that the access card is a loyalty card is non-functional descriptive data and carries little patentable weight to distinguish over the prior art. See discussion as to claims 73-75.

Referring to Claim 108:

Klein discloses the plurality of electronic devices include an electronic lock having a clock therein providing time information, wherein the electronic lock compares information from the access card to the clock for selectively providing access to a space defined by the access parameters stored in the card memory of the access card (col. 3, lines 35-48; col. 5, lines 38-48; col. 6, lines 5-11; col. 6, lines 35-45; col. 7, lines 42-46 and 58-65; col. 8, lines 12-17).

Referring to Claim 109:

Wherein the plurality of electronic access devices include an electronic lock having a clock therein providing information and wherein the electronic lock stores information from the clock in the card memory of the access card, stores registration information from the card memory of the access card in a memory in the lock, or both (col. 3, lines 35-48; col. 5, lines 38-48; col. 6, lines 5-11; col. 6, lines 35-45; col. 7, lines 42-46 and 58-65; col. 8, lines 12-17).

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Referring to Claim 110:

Wherein the access card is one of a magnetic strip card and a smart card including a processor and a memory (col. 3, lines 21-29 chip card with code).

Referring to Claim 111:

Klein discloses at least one of the plurality of electronic access devices are operably coupled to at least one processor for communicating information, parameters, or a combination thereof (col. 3, lines 21-29 and col. 4, lines 13-55).

Referring to Claim 112:

Klein discloses information communicated to the processor from an external source to the registration system via a communication link (Figures 1 and 2; col. 7, lines 4-57).

Referring to Claim 113:

Klein discloses the communication link including a network, telephone, the Internet, or a combination thereof (col. 4, lines 13-45).

Referring to Claims 114 and 132:

Klein discloses a method and medium for self registering a user (col. 1, lines 5-28), comprising:

providing a user terminal for self registering a user (Figures 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 13-45; col. 7, lines 4-57);

providing a supply of access cards, each card including a card memory for storing access information therein, but not having access information pre-stored thereon, wherein the access card is not a credit card and is not for conducting a credit transaction (col. 3, lines 21-34; col. 4, lines 44-50; col. 6, lines 24-54).

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providing a plurality of electronic access devices each operable responsive to an access card having certain access information stored in a card memory to provide access to a facility or facilities (col. 4, lines 46-60; col. 5, lines 3-12 and 34-37);

receiving and displaying registration information using the user terminal (col. 4, lines 13-60; col. 5, lines 38-57; col. 6, lines 46-65; col. 7, lines 4-57);

allowing the user to use the user terminal to enter and optionally to change registration information (col. 4, lines 13-45; col. 5, lines 38-48);

allowing the user to use the user terminal to select the facility or facilities to which the user is to have access (col. 4, lines 13-45; col. 7, lines 4-57);

wherein the received registration information, the changed registration information, or both, and the selected facility or facilities comprise a registration (col. 2, lines 43-56; col. 4, lines 13-60; col. 7, lines 4-57);

receiving card information for effecting billing, payment or other transaction relating to the self registration (col. 2, lines 39-41; col. 5, lines 13-48);

whereby a user can self register for a selected facility or facilities using the user terminal without intervention of personnel of the facility or facilities (col. 1, lines 6-31; col. 4, lines 13-60);

storing information representative of the registration information, the changed registration information, if any, and the selected facility or facilities into a computer (col. 4, lines 13-60);

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processing the registration information and the selected facility by the computer for providing certain access information (col. 4, lines 13-60; col. 7, lines 4-57);

storing the access information into the card memory of the access card (col. 3, lines 12-34; col. 4, lines 13-60); and

providing the access card to the user to be used with the electronic access devices to gain access to the selected facility, whereby the access card provided to the user may be used with the electronic access devices to gain access to the facility (col. 4, lines 13-60).

Referring to Claim 115 and 136:

Klein discloses placing the card operably proximate to the user terminal for reading the information stored in the card memory and completing a transaction using the information stored in a computer and the information read from the access card (col. 4, lines 21-29; col. 5, lines 2-37).

Referring to Claims 116 and 137 :

Klein discloses wherein completing the transaction includes effecting billing, effecting payment, or both and providing a tangible receipt containing transaction information (col. 2, lines 39-42; col. 5, lines 12-48).

Referring to Claim 117:

Klein discloses wherein receiving card information includes placing a card operably proximate to the user terminal, entering information and displaying information relating to the transaction (col. 4, lines 50-60; col. 5, lines 13-48).

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Referring to Claim 118:

Klein discloses wherein the transaction includes verifying credit, authorizing credit, billing, payment, or a combination thereof (col. 2, lines 39-42; col. 5, lines 19-28 and 38-48).

Referring to Claim 119:

Wherein storing access information and providing access card include, placing the card operably proximate to the user terminal, storing the access information in the memory. (col. 4, lines 50-60; col. 5, lines 4-12; col. 5, lines 34-37).

Referring to Claims 120 and 133-134:

Klein discloses wherein receiving and displaying registration information includes:

obtaining at least part of the registration information from an external source (Figures 1 and 2; col. 7, lines 4-57);

communicating the information from a property management system (col. 4, lines 13-60; col. 7, lines 4-57);

communicating information with a billing/payment system (col. 5, lines 38-48);

communicating information with a personnel management system; or a combination of any two or more (col. 4, lines 13-60 and col. 7, lines 4-57).

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Referring to Claims 121 and 135:

Klein discloses communicating the information via a network, telephone, the Internet, or a combination thereof (col. 4, lines 13-45; col. 7, lines 7-57).

Referring to Claim 122:

Klein discloses a time recording and access control system, comprising:
at least one processor providing information and at least one memory operably coupled thereto (Figures 1 and 2 Disposition Center Z and Disposition Computer D);

access cards with each card including a card memory not having information stored thereon usable with one or more electronic access devices for gaining access to one or more spaces (col. 3, lines 21-29; col. 4, lines 13-60);

a plurality of electronic access devices associated with one of the spaces responsive to information stored in the card memory of an access card (col. 4, lines 13-60; col. 5, lines 3-12 and 34-37);

an access control system including a computer program stored in the at least one memory and operating in conjunction with the at least one processor (col. 4, lines 13-60; col. 5, lines 3-12 and 34-37; col. 7, lines 46-57);

a user interface operably coupled to the at least one processor and a property management system; the property management system providing information (col. 4, lines 13-60; col. 7, lines 4-57)

a card issuing device operably coupled to the at least one processor comprising a means for storing information from the user interface and

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information from the access control system in the card memory of an access card (col. 4, lines 13-60);

means for issuing the access card in response to registering a user, the card enabling at least one of the access devices to allow access to one of the spaces (col. 4, lines 13-60; col. 7, lines 4-57) and

at least one time clock station including a clock, wherein the clock station is responsive to the access card and records the time information relating to access (col. 3, lines 35-44; col. 5, lines 38-48; col. 6, lines 8-12 and 35-41; col. 7, lines 59-65 and col. 8, lines 12-16).

Referring to Claim 123:

Klein discloses wherein the user interface is operably coupled to at least one processor obtaining information from an external source via a communication link (Figures 1 and 2 and col. 7, lines 4-57).

Referring to Claim 124:

Klein discloses a communication link including a network, telephone, the Internet or a combination thereof (col. 4, lines 13-45; Figures 1-2; col. 7, lines 4-57).

Referring to Claim 125:

Klein discloses a personnel management system including a computer program stored in the at least one memory and operating in conjunction with the processor; wherein the card issuing device provides an access card having information stored in the memory (col. 4, lines 13-60).

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Referring to Claim 126:

Klein discloses the at least one time clock station records information relating to the access card in the memory of the access card, in a memory of the time clock station, or both (col. 3, lines 35-44; col. 5, lines 38-48; col. 6, lines 8-12 and 35-41; col. 7, lines 59-65 and col. 8, lines 12-16).

Referring to Claim 127:

Klein discloses the access card has information stored in the card memory for enabling access by an electronic access device (col. 3, lines 21-29; col. 4, lines 46-60; col. 7, lines 27-57).

Referring to Claim 128:

Klein discloses the electronic access control device either compares information from the access card to information from the clock, or records information from the clock in the card memory of the access card or in the memory of the access device, both, or a combination thereof (col. 3, lines 35-44; col. 5, lines 38-48; col. 6, lines 8-12 and 35-41; col. 7, lines 59-65 and col. 8, lines 12-16).

Referring to Claim 129:

Klein discloses the access card is a magnetic strip card, a smart card including a processor and a memory, or a combination thereof (col. 3, lines 21-29).

Referring to Claim 130:

Klein discloses a plurality of electronic access devices are operably coupled to at least one processor (Figures 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 13-60).

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Referring to Claim 131:

Klein discloses means coupled to the processor and responsive to a card for effecting verification, authorization, billing, payment or a combination thereof (col. 2, lines 39-42; col. 5, lines 38-57).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-69 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

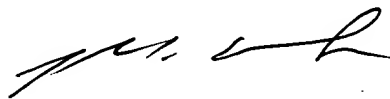
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janice A. Mooneyham whose telephone number is (571) 272-6805. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JM



JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600